



The President's Daily Brief

Sunday

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SUNDAY CABLE
20 June 1971

LAOS

Military action in Laos on 18 June was relatively light, with the only significant fighting being reported from the Plaine des Jarres area. Vang Pao's forces have made no further headway southwest of the Plaine in their drive to retake the tactically important hilltop positions on Phou Seu mountain. On the southeastern edge of the Plaine des Jarres, however, two irregular battalions have succeeded in seizing the summit of Phou Theung mountain. This position will afford Vang Pao an opportunity to effectively direct air and artillery fire on enemy positions and supply lines in this sector, particularly along Route 4 to Xieng Khouangville. The NVA buildup around Bouam Long, northeast of the Plaine, continues, but government forces have reported no major action in the last 24 hours.

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PAKISTAN

President Yahya's latest statement on 18 June appealing to the refugees to return to East Pakistan marks the first time that he has indicated that Hindus and other minorities would be welcome. He declared that his appeal was addressed to all Pakistani nationals "irrespective of caste, creed or religion" and assured "members of the minority community" that as equal citizens they would receive full protection and nondiscrimination. Although the eventual return of more than a trickle of the now nearly six million refugees will depend upon more than Yahya's reassurances, he has at least now moved to put his government on record as against a policy of repression toward the Hindu minority.

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